

Claims 1, 2 and 4-15 are pending in this application, with Claims 1 and 11 being independent.

Claims 1, 2 and 4-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly obvious over Ohkuma, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,478,606) in view of Field, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,852,222). Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this rejection.

The present invention, as recited in Claims 1 and 11, relates to a liquid flow path having a coating resin layer. The coating resin layer is formed from a cured product of a resin composition comprising (1) a curable epoxy compound, (2) a compound having a functional group reactive to the curable epoxy compound and a fluorocarbon moiety, and (3) a curing agent. The content of compound (2) in the resin composition is in a range of 5% to 50% by weight.

Applicants submit that the cited references do not teach or suggest all the features of the claimed invention, either taken singly or in combination (assuming, for the sake of argument, that the references can properly be combined).

The Examiner has pointed out Tables 1 and 2 of Ohkuma, et al. as teaching various concentrations of the compound having a functional group and fluorocarbon moiety. Applicants note that in Table 1, the cationic photopolymerization initiator is present at one part (out of 111 parts), which is 0.9 weight percent. In Table 2, the cationic photopolymerization initiator and the reducing agent

(copper triflate) are each present at 0.5 parts, or, in combination, 1 out of 106 parts, which is 0.94 weight percent. Applicants submit that the amounts used in Ohkuma, et al. do not teach or suggest at least the feature of the claims requiring that the compound having a functional group reactive to the curable epoxy compound and a fluorocarbon moiety be contained in the resin composition at 5% to 50% by weight.

It is submitted that Field does not teach or suggest this feature, either, and therefore does not remedy the deficiencies of the primary reference.

Accordingly, Applicants conclude that the present invention is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by the cited references. Applicants therefore respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the Section 103 rejection.

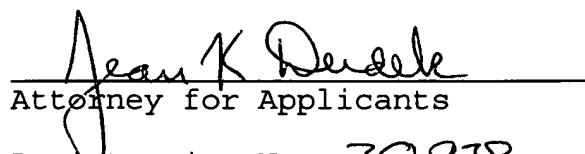
For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claims 1 and 11. The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable because they set forth additional aspects of the present invention. Separate and individual consideration of each dependent claim is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010.

All correspondence should continue to be directed to our
below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,


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